

RESOLUTION No. 16-185

WHEREAS, the City Council and the Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are apprised that Jacqueline D. Reed will be honored for her active volunteerism in the local community during the "2016 Honoring Our Elders Celebration" sponsored by the Rosetta James Foundation, held at the Jackson Center on March 12, 2016; and,

WHEREAS, the Rosetta James Foundation was founded in December 2006. It is a 509 (a) (2) public charity and educational organization founded for the purposes of providing scholarships to deserving students and recognizing the contributions of the elderly in the community while promoting volunteerism and community outreach; and,

WHEREAS, the Foundation's famous "Honoring Our Elders Celebration" is named in honor of Mrs. Rosetta James, a native of Akron, Alabama, in recognition of her outstanding and extraordinary dedication and service to many communities by way of active citizenship. Mrs. James has been determined to seek and search for ways to serve the underserved, minister to the incarcerated, register citizens to vote, provide for the poor and assure hope for the hopeless throughout Huntsville-Madison County for the past 35 years, and continues to be an exemplar of servant citizenship; and,

WHEREAS, Jacqueline (Jackie) D. Reed was born on a farm in Sparta, Tennessee, in White County, where her father was a farmer and drove a school bus for 35 years. During her junior year in high school, she worked at the city drug store and was voted by the high school band to be a majorette. In her senior year, she was voted as the "Cutest Girl" in the class among 400 seniors; and,

WHEREAS, following graduation from high school, she attended Tennessee Polytechnic Institute (TPI), Cookeville, Tennessee, working in the family-owned restaurant in Sparta, Tennessee. During her sophomore year at TPI, she met Ray B. Reed, from Hartsville, Tennessee, a junior at TPI. She moved to Nashville to work, while Ray continued his education. After Ray graduated, he moved to Nashville, and they were married on November 25, 1955. In 1956, Ray was drafted into the Army and they moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for two years, where Ray was stationed at Rittenhouse Square, learning computer technology. Their first child (Debra) was born in 1958, three weeks before Ray was released from the Army, and they moved to Huntsville, Alabama, where Ray was employed with General Electric; and,

WHEREAS, she worked at Southern Associated Engineers, and their second child, Darryl (Dee), was born in 1961. In 1965, Ray went to work for NASA as the Branch Chief of the Computer Lab at Marshall Space Flight Center, and Jackie worked for Teledyne Brown Engineering. On February 28, 1966, Ray and three other NASA men traveled in a private plane to Daytona, Florida to see the Daytona Car Races. When returning to Huntsville, there was a tragic accident that killed all four men in

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Columbus, Georgia. Soon after the accident, Jackie requested to participate in an early layoff at Teledyne Brown to deal with the grief and the responsibility of raising two children (ages seven and four). Nine months later, her 18-year-old brother was killed in a car accident and her religion turned into faith and trust in God; and,

WHEREAS, Ray had purchased three pieces of rental property in Huntsville on Governors Drive, which were a source of income. Governors Drive was chosen for an Interstate through Huntsville, creating an issue for the State to potentially take her property. Jackie collected 88 signatures to get her property rezoned from residential to commercial and the request was denied several times due to the possibility of the Interstate. She made a statement: "I will watch government for many years"; and,

WHEREAS, in 1968, she met Charles (Chuck) H. Bailes, her second husband, and they owned several pieces of property. They owned and operated Debra's Clothesline, a dress shop, on Jordan Lane from 1970-1978. In 1978, they closed the store and both were employed at United Space Boosters, Incorporated (USBI). While at USBI, Jackie worked as a clerk-typist, receiving many awards and was recognized for a cost savings award for her suggestion on Anti-Static Protective Bubble Wrap. She was also promoted from a clerk-typist to a Manufacturing Planning Assistant, responsible for budgetary tracking programs on the IBM Personal Computer. While working at USBI, Jackie requested to be on the Huntsville Utility Board and was informed the vote did not pass. She informed Fletcher Seldon of the results and questioned why votes were taken before a meeting, and he suggested she share her story with the Huntsville City Council. The rest is history; and,

WHEREAS, for over 30 years, Jackie Reed has dedicated her time to attending City Council and Governmental meetings and monitoring budgets affecting all citizens. Since 1988, she has run for Mayor seven times, and is registered to run in the next election in 2016. She has run for City Council six times, and one legislative position. She feels pride from choosing the needs of others over her own, and she has earned the respect and trust from city employees and citizens; and,

WHEREAS, in recognition of her dedicated service as a volunteer and community activist, she received the Rosa Parks Woman of Courage Award from the Huntsville/Madison County Branch of the NAACP. She has also written "One Woman's Opinion" for 15 years in the local newspaper, "Speakin' Out News". Jackie was recently selected to be showcased as a "Loser" on the "Today Show", which was aired on national television on NBC November 29, 2015. The story told the dedication, drive, determination and persistence of never giving up. She also has a song written about her life by Mr. George Wells, Huntsville, Alabama - "The Legend of Jackie Reed". Jackie has two children that graduated from Huntsville

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High School and both hold college degrees. She also has two grandsons that are students in the Huntsville City School system. Her faith in God and the strength she gains from that faith has seen her through many hard times and she remains a source of inspiration to all who know her.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, gratefully acknowledge and congratulate Jacqueline D. Reed and the Rosetta James Foundation, and extend best wishes for continued success in all future endeavors.

ADOPTED this the 10th day of March, 2016.

President of the City Council of the
City of Huntsville, Alabama

APPROVED this the 10th day of March, 2016.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama